working of the Constitution had recommended that a National Judicial Commission be set up so that there is wider public participation and transparency;

(b) whether Government have examined the recommendation and if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) in view of the complaints on the functioning of the judiciary particularly at the higher levels, which can be looked into by such a National Judicial Commission, why there has been so much delay in appointing the Commission; and

(d) the time frame to set up the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Constitution (Ninety Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2003 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9.5.2003 for setting up of a National Judicial Commission. The Bill has, however, lapsed due to dissolution of the last Lok Sabha in May, 2004.*-

(c) and (d) The Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of a High Court have the competence to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judge of his Court and when he receives any, he would look into it whether the allegations deserve to be closely looked into. There is no proposal for setting up of National Judicial Commission.

Constitution Review Commission

1105. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission set up by the previous Government; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution submitted its report to the Government on 31 st March, 2002.

(b) The full text of the report of the Commission has been put on the

Internet and the report has also been forwarded to all Ministries/ Departments. Action on the recommendations lies with the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations.

Child adoption

1106. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Muslims, Christians and Parsis cannot 'legally' adopt a child in India; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed for enacting a legislation so that non Hindu parents can adopt a child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Even though there is no general law of adoption in India, yet recourse can be had to the provisions of the Guardian and Wards Act, 1890 for getting oneself appointed as guardian of any minor child of any religion through court. The question of bringing in a uniform legislation on adoption was twice attempted *vide* the Adoption of Children Bill, 1972 and the Adoption of Children Bill, 1980 but could not succeed due to strong opposition from certain communities. It is the consistent policy of the Central Government not to interfere in the personal laws of the minority communities unless the initiative therefor comes from those communities. In the circumstances, as stated above, at present there is no proposal with the Central Government to bring in any uniform law on adoption.

Deficiency in Electronic Voting Machines

†1107. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Engineers have claimed to expose the short comings in the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM's); and

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking seriously the claim of a Chennai based Engineer that tampering with the Electronic Voting Machines is possible?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.